



News is usually slow at the beginning of the year but with our minister on compassionate leave there is no Minister's Letter.



CHURCH VISION PROJECT : UPDATE

You may remember back in May we circulated the church "Emerging out of Lockdown" questionnaire. This asked what we all thought our church should be, where it should be going to respond to the new post pandemic world and what is just not working now.

Well to drastically distil the result into a few words, you decided that,

- 1) we should become a Christian beacon to our local community and
- 2) the building as it is now, requires a major overhaul to adequately suit what is even currently being done.

The task is so wide ranging that the Vision Project working group have identified three urgent items, to get the project moving. These as reported to the last Church Meeting were:

- 1- The sound system
- 2- Level the sanctuary floor
- 3- Install a platform lift.

1 The Sound System

Two of the team attended the Christian Resources Exhibition and gathered information on several specialist companies dealing with Church sound systems. A short list was made of those willing to carry out a survey to suggest systems and improvements that can be implemented quickly and amended to support future building changes. We are aware of problems with the hearing aid loop and upgrading this would be an important part of any new installation.

2 Level the Sanctuary Floor

It was decided that removing the fixed pews and levelling the sanctuary floor would make the space much more flexible, opening it up to many different forms of worship and seating arrangements. Allowing for both a quiet contemplative space as well as youth gala events etc.

The current proposal is to level the whole area with the vestibule floor and dais running smoothly through with a carpet tile finish on a ply floor. The void under would be available for service cables to run to any location with concealed access panels such as a metal office type system or a removable ply panel. A rough ballpark figure for this would be around £110,000 including VAT. On top of that of course we would need new seating.

3 Platform Lift

One of our chief objectives is to make the whole church building easily accessible to everyone. I think we are all agreed that the stair lift is not a good solution. It is difficult and cumbersome to operate and worse of all becomes a big event if a disabled or frail person wants to use it, so is also embarrassing for them.

A proper enclosed platform lift, with simple controls that can be used by anyone without making a song and dance about it would be so much better. We are considering a Shannah MidiliftGL, which is a system known to us, provided by a reputable company who will also provide maintenance support. The lift will be large enough for a wheelchair user with assistant to fit in and will be located in the main stair well. It will serve 3 levels – The lower ground (Kitchen & GP room), the vestibule level and the upper hall landing. That would mean that the whole church from the back of the GP room to the back of the dais will be accessible to everyone without using a single stair.

The rough cost for this would be £24,000 including VAT, plus a maintenance contract of £900 per year. The next stage is to get a firm quotation.

There are two further pressing items yet to be considered by the working group:

4. The organ
5. The heating system.

4 The Organ

If we are to open the front of the church and use the area behind the dais as a cafe and children's area, then the organ pipes etc will need to be moved. Which then begs the question, Do we sell the traditional organ – which we believe has a high value – and replace it with a top-quality electric organ, which can be located anywhere and is easier to play? Or do we keep the existing organ and relocate it with its pipes on display within the sanctuary area?

One suggestion is that organ recitals could become a regular outreach event. However organists are difficult to come by and Graham does not profess to be an expert organist, so we would have to employ one for recitals. Not to mention when Graham retires.

5 The Heating System

This is a much more complex and expensive prospect. The boilers are inefficient and expensive to run; also, **the building has no insulation** (not in the roof nor in the cavity walls) additionally most windows are single glazed!

It's not just a question of getting a new boiler, as gas boilers are being phased out. So, for the long term we need to consider a complete change of fuel. Electric heat pumps (ground source or air source) or perhaps hydrogen powered or hydrogen –ready boilers? There are a lot of new technologies coming along soon, but at the moment it's just too early. Perhaps we should hold off on the actual heating system for now and concentrate on the fabric of the building.

Installing insulation and double glazing is almost a no brainer and this will make the existing heating system more efficient.

So, these last two items will be occupying our minds for the next few months, but in the meantime please send any suggestions or wizard ideas to Alison for us to consider. Watch this space. *Jim Rivers*

SAFEGUARDING

A reminder to all users of the church premises that you must not enter a room or space that is already being used by other users especially where children are present without the permission of the leader of that group. This applies whether the children are Rainbows, Brownies, Boys' Brigade, playgroup, Mother and Toddler or any dancing or drama group. If you are involved with an outside letting you must not, under any circumstances, allow any member of your group to enter into any such room. All the leaders of uniformed organisations. Playgroup or Mother and Toddlers have been DBS checked, you and members of your group may not have been. We have a duty to keep all children safe while they are in our care or on our premises.

The Safeguarding Team

WHITERCHAPEL MISSION

For several years Betty has organised clothing collections twice a year on our behalf however, Betty has now asked to stand down from this role. It is vital for Whitechapel Mission to receive our clothing bags as they need the items donated more than ever.

Following the December Elders meeting, I have agreed to be the new contact person so we can continue with collections, though help will be needed on collection day to load the van, as I may not be available to do that part. I will be in touch with Tony Miller from Whitechapel Mission in the New Year to pencil in a date & time in April and will let you all know the details in due course. Betty has kindly offered to still take bags into her garage between collections as she knows how vital they are to the mission, so would prefer us not to give the clothing to other charities. A big thank you to Betty for all her hard work in organising the collections.



Ceri

NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

There are five trees to the left of the in driveway lose to Western Road, the roots of these trees have encroached onto our neighbour's property and penetrated into their drainage system Further their branches are encroaching into the gutters of their property. In order to prevent further damage and a hefty insurance claim, these trees will have to be removed. The removal will be undertaken early in the New Year and will take one day. Disruption will be kept to a minimum, but the Trustees apologise in advance for any disruption caused.

Now that the excitement of Christmas and the New YEAR is over, we come to the unpleasant fact that Covid is still very much with us all. Some of you may have wondered why the Trustees had to ask the Church for financial assistance to cover 2021 expenses-----simply put, the Trustees' income suffered horribly in 2020 and 2021, fortunately, the Church's did not.

Although the Covid pandemic eased somewhat in 2021 our income did not recover, remaining way below par., In fact, had it not been for the Church's help (£10,000.00), (£2,500.00) unexpected refund from Thames North, 3 years overdue and (£10,000.00) from sale of securities the Trust funds would have been at least, b£25,000.00 in DEBIT

The payments to the Maintenance of the Ministry Fund remain at the substantial sum of £50,000 per year. £1000.00 PER WEEK.as if all was normal???

There is no need for panic, but we felt that a word of caution that the actioning of any unnecessary expense would be imprudent. For the time being we must "our horns in".

With all the Trustees very best wishes to you all for a Happy and Healthier 2022

The Editor apologises for the delay in producing Kindle for this month. His computer decided not to communicate with the internet and had to be taken to the equivalent of a computer hospital. However, as you can see the treatment was successful and the computer has now been released home.

The Editor thanks all those who contributed to last year's issues of Kindle and asks that they may continue. Finally, the editor wishes all readers a Happy and prosperous New Year.

A man who had too much to drink decides to walk home on New Year's Eve.

A policeman stopped the man and asked where he was going
."I'm on my way to a lecture," the man replied. The cop scoffed,
"Who gives lectures on New Year's Eve?"
The man answered: "My wife."

ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. A 8
2. A coin
3. Ebenezer Scrooge
4. Oslo
5. 24
6. 5
7. 359
8. Because it was foggy on Christmas Eve
9. Twelfth Night
10. Poinsettia
11. Feliz Navidad
12. The Nutcracker
13. Germany
14. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert
15. Hen
16. Minced meat
17. Capricorn
18. Soot
19. Before us
20. Pigs in blanket

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again.

Thank you for this new year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us a mighty flame

So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise
Your glorious name.
Amen

(A modern prayer for the New Year from www.lords-prayer-words.com)

Minister

Rev'd Alison Davis 01708 727955
Davisalisonm7@gmail.com

Church Secretary Western Road
Pat Jones

patricia_jones64@tiscali.co.uk

Church Secretary Heaton Way

Louise Manning 01708 344832

e.manning@ntlworld.com

=====

Kindle

robinmorrison21@outlook.com

Copy for the next issue 27th January 2022